AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing biometric information, comprising the steps of:

capturing a biometric sample from a <u>single</u> sensor;

transmitting the biometric sample from the sensor to a processing component;

processing the biometric sample by a first vendor's <u>biometric</u> algorithm to yield a first reference template;

<u>associating</u> ~~storing~~ the first reference template with <u>a</u> ~~an associated~~ record identifier ~~in a storage component~~;

processing the biometric sample by a second vendor's <u>biometric</u> algorithm to yield a second reference template;

~~storing the second reference template in a storage component;~~ and

associating the second reference template with the record identifier.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

processing the biometric sample by [[an]] <u>one or more</u> additional vendor's ~~algorithm~~ <u>biometric algorithms</u> to yield [[an]] <u>one or more</u> additional reference ~~template~~ <u>templates</u>; <u>and</u>

associating <u>the one or more</u> additional reference templates with the record identifier ~~; and~~

~~storing the one or more additional reference templates in storage units.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

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receiving a request for a template from a requesting authority, wherein the request identifies [[the]] a type of template needed to perform [[the]] a match and [[a]] the given record identifier;

determining from a plurality of storage units if the requested type of template is available for the given record identifier; and

transmitting the template, if it is available, to the requesting authority.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for a biometric ~~verification~~ match from a requesting authority along with a match template, wherein the request identifies [[a]] the given record identifier;

locating from a plurality of storage units ~~an enrollment~~ the reference template associated with the given record identifier that is compatible with the match template; and

performing a template comparison between the match template and the ~~enrollment~~ reference template.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of returning the result of the template match to the requesting authority.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the algorithms are selected from the group of the following technologies: minutiae matching, pattern matching, vector line analysis, Eigenface and neural network processing.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the template creation process is preceded by an image pre-processing step wherein the image is modified according to information in a vendor profile associated with the algorithm.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the information in the vendor profile is selected from the group of following: image dimension, resolution, scale, speed, time, frequency, and orientation.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the vendor profile is created prior to the image pre-processing step based on features associated with a specific algorithm.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the image pre-processing comprises the steps of:

extracting several different sub-samples ~~form~~ from the sample by means superimposing geometric shapes on the ~~original~~ sample wherein such geometric shapes correspond with the vendor profile; and

performing ~~matches~~ a match between ~~templates~~ a template created from the sub-samples and one of the reference ~~enrollment~~ templates.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the geometric shapes are rectangles.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the biometric sample is selected from the group of following items: fingerprint, facial image, iris image, retina image, voiceprint, DNA sample, hand shape, signature, and gait.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a fingerprint sample is captured on a livescan input device with at least 400 dots per square inch resolution.

14. – 15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of performing a template comparison <u>between a match template and one of the reference templates</u> ~~against a plurality of enrollment templates~~.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]]<u>16</u>, further comprising the ~~steps~~ <u>step</u> of~~:~~

~~receiving a request for a match from a requesting authority wherein the request identifies a given record identifier;~~

~~locating from a plurality of storage units an enrollment template associated with the record identifier;~~

performing a template comparison between the match template and ~~the enrollment template;~~

~~locating from a plurality of storage units a second enrollment template associated with the record identifier; and~~

~~performing a template comparison between the match template and the second enrollment template~~ <u>one or more additional reference templates</u>.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of using a weighting algorithm to evaluate the results of the <u>one or more</u> different template matches.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of generating one final result as to whether there is a match between the person represented by the given identifier and the ~~verification~~ <u>match</u> template based upon the ~~plurality of~~ <u>one or more</u> template matches.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the ~~matches are~~ <u>comparison is</u> performed on a centralized server.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the ~~matches are~~ <u>comparison is</u> performed locally in proximity to the sensor.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for processing biometric information, comprising the steps of:

capturing a biometric sample from a sensor;

transmitting the biometric sample from the sensor to a storage component;

receiving a request ~~for a given vendor's template~~ from a requesting authority, wherein the request identifies ~~the type of template needed to perform verification and a given record~~

~~identifier~~ a vendor and associated biometric algorithm to be used in creating a reference

template, and the reference template is not created until the request is received from the

requesting authority; and

      processing the biometric sample by the ~~given~~ identified vendor's biometric algorithm to

~~yield a~~ create the reference template ~~in the form as requested by the requesting authority~~.

      23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22 further comprising the step of

returning the ~~result of the~~ reference template ~~match~~ to the requesting authority.

      24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22 further comprising the step of

~~returning the template to the requesting authority~~ performing a template comparison between the

reference template and a match template.

      25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[22]] 24 further comprising the step of

~~performing a template comparison between the verification template and the enrollment template~~

returning the result of the template comparison to the requesting authority.

      26. (Currently Amended) A method for processing biometric information, comprising the

steps of:

      retrieving a biometric sample from a storage component;

      transmitting the biometric sample from the storage component to a processing

component;

processing the biometric sample by a first vendor's <u>biometric</u> algorithm to yield a first reference template;

associating ~~storing~~ the first reference template with an associated record identifier ~~in a storage component~~;

processing the biometric sample by a second vendor's <u>biometric</u> algorithm to yield ~~another~~ <u>a second</u> reference template;

~~storing the second reference template in a storage component;~~ and

associating the second reference template with the record identifier.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, further comprising the steps of:

processing the biometric sample by [[an]] <u>one or more</u> additional algorithm<u>s</u> to yield [[an]] <u>one or more</u> additional template<u>s</u>;

associating <u>the one or more</u> additional templates with the record identifier~~; and~~

~~storing the one or more additional templates in storage units~~.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for processing biometric information, comprising the steps of:

processing <u>a</u> ~~the~~ biometric sample by a first vendor's <u>biometric</u> algorithm to yield a first ~~verification~~ <u>match</u> template for a given user;

processing the biometric sample by a second vendor's <u>biometric</u> algorithm to yield a second ~~verification~~ <u>match</u> template for the same user;

performing a match between the second vendor's verification template and a previously stored compatible ~~enrollment~~ <u>reference</u> template associated with the user; and

upon successful match, storing the first vendor's ~~verification~~ <u>match</u> template as ~~an enrollment~~ <u>a reference</u> template associated <u>with</u> the user.

29. (New) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for a match from a requesting authority wherein the request identifies a given record identifier;

locating from a plurality of storage units the first reference template generated from the first algorithm and associated with the given record identifier; and

performing a template comparison between a match template and the first reference template.

30. (New) A method for processing biometric information, comprising the steps of:

capturing a biometric sample from a single sensor;

transmitting the biometric sample from the sensor to a processing component;

processing the biometric sample by a first biometric enrollment algorithm to yield a first reference template;

associating the first reference template with a record identifier;

processing the biometric sample by a second biometric enrollment algorithm to yield a second reference template; and

associating the second reference template with the record identifier.